

9. “E-Governance Transforming the Rural India: An Analysis of major Projects and Initiatives”

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Abstract:

E-Governance is the use of information and communication technologies to support good governance. A number of countries across the world have adopted E-governance schemes to transform the life pattern of their denizens. Information and communication technologies have a valuable potential to help meet good governance goals in India. The government of India and several state governments have been continuously endeavoring to provide citizen services in a better manner in all areas of Public administration such as Public Services, Rural Services, Social Services, Agricultural and Revenue Services, etc. The benchmark step taken by the Indian Government is the enactment of Information Technology Act (2000). It has provisions to facilitate electronic commerce and electronic transactions, electronic contracts, prevention of computer crimes, electronic filing and digital signature, etc. The Union Government had approved the National E-governance Action Plan for implementation during the year 2003-2007. The plan is an attempt to lay the foundation and provide impetus for long-term growth of e-governance within the country. E-governance has helped in timely and accurate issuance of Records of Rights (ROR) to land owners. Agmarknet, Kisan Call Centres. E-panchayats, E-chaupal, E-learning in education, business and railways are other areas where E-governance is proving the effectiveness. India has a large network of Public Distribution System (PDS) and fair price shops (FPS) to provide essential commodities to the rural folk and E-governance will minimize the corruption and mismanagement of PDS.

One goal of e-government will be greater citizen participation. Through the internet, people from all over the country can interact with politicians or public servants and make their voices heard. India has enforced the Right to Information Act (2005) and IT based services would lead to greater